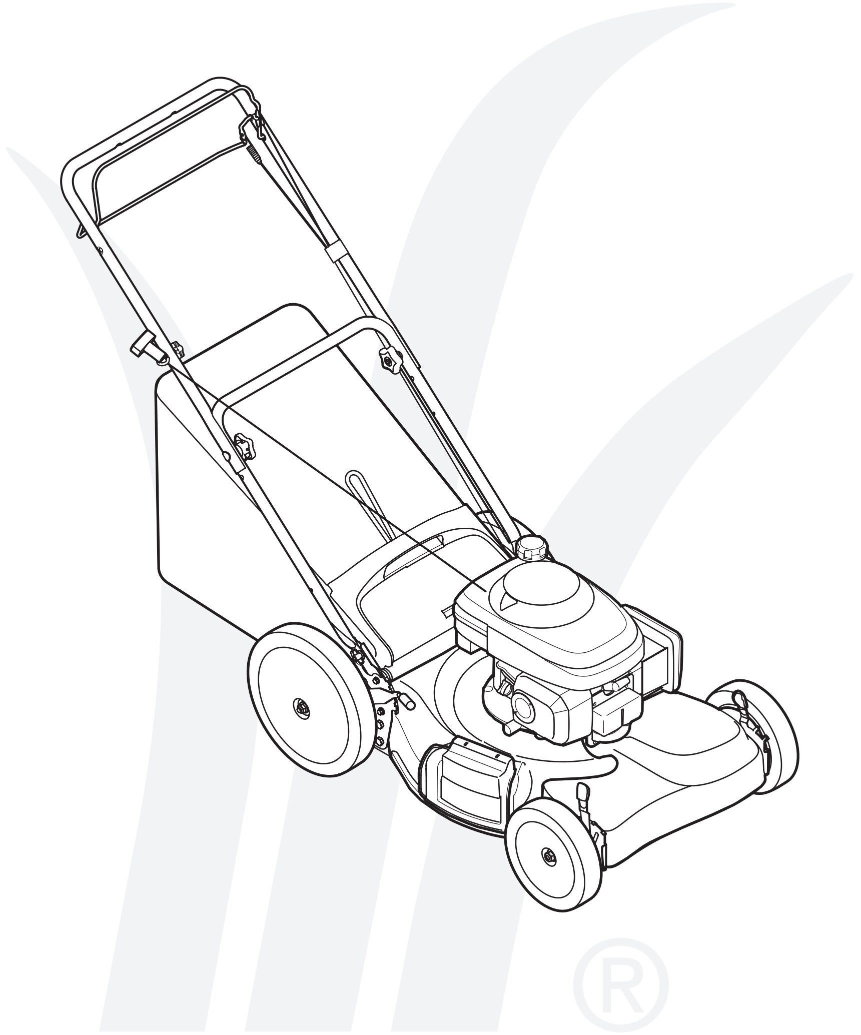
Safety • Assembly • Operation • Tips & Techniques • Maintenance • Troubleshooting • Parts Lists • Warranty

OPERATOR'S MANUAL



21" Rotary Mower — Model Series 560

IMPORTANT

READ SAFETY RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE OPERATION

Warning: This unit is equipped with an internal combustion engine and should not be used on or near any unimproved forest-covered, brush-covered or grass-covered land unless the engine's exhaust system is equipped with a spark arrester meeting applicable local or state laws (if any). If a spark arrester is used, it should be maintained in effective working order by the operator. In the State of California the above is required by law (Section 4442 of the California Public Resources Code). Other states may have similar laws. Federal laws apply on federal lands. A spark arrester for the muffler is available through your nearest engine authorized service dealer or contact the service department, P.O. Box 361131 Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019.

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019

FORM NO. 770-10347G
10/18/2006

This Operator's Manual is an important part of your new lawn mower. It will help you assemble, prepare, and maintain the unit for best performance. Please read and understand what it says.

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MTD LLC reserves the right to change product specifications, designs, and equipment without notice and without incurring obligation.

Finding and Recording Model Number

BEFORE ASSEMBLING YOUR NEW EQUIPMENT, please locate the model plate on the equipment and copy the information to the sample model plate provided to the right. You can locate the model plate by standing at the operating position and looking down at the rear of the deck. This information will be necessary to use the manufacturer's web site, to obtain assistance from the Customer Support Department, or when contacting an authorized service dealer.

____________	____________
Model Number	**Serial Number**

MTD For A Growing World.™ ®
www.mtdproducts.com

MTD LLC
P.O. BOX 361131
CLEVELAND, OH 44136
330-220-4683
800-800-7310

Customer Support

Please do NOT return the unit to the retailer from which it was purchased, without first contacting Customer Support.

If you have difficulty assembling this product or have any questions regarding the controls, operation, or maintenance of this unit, you can seek help from the experts. Choose from the options below:

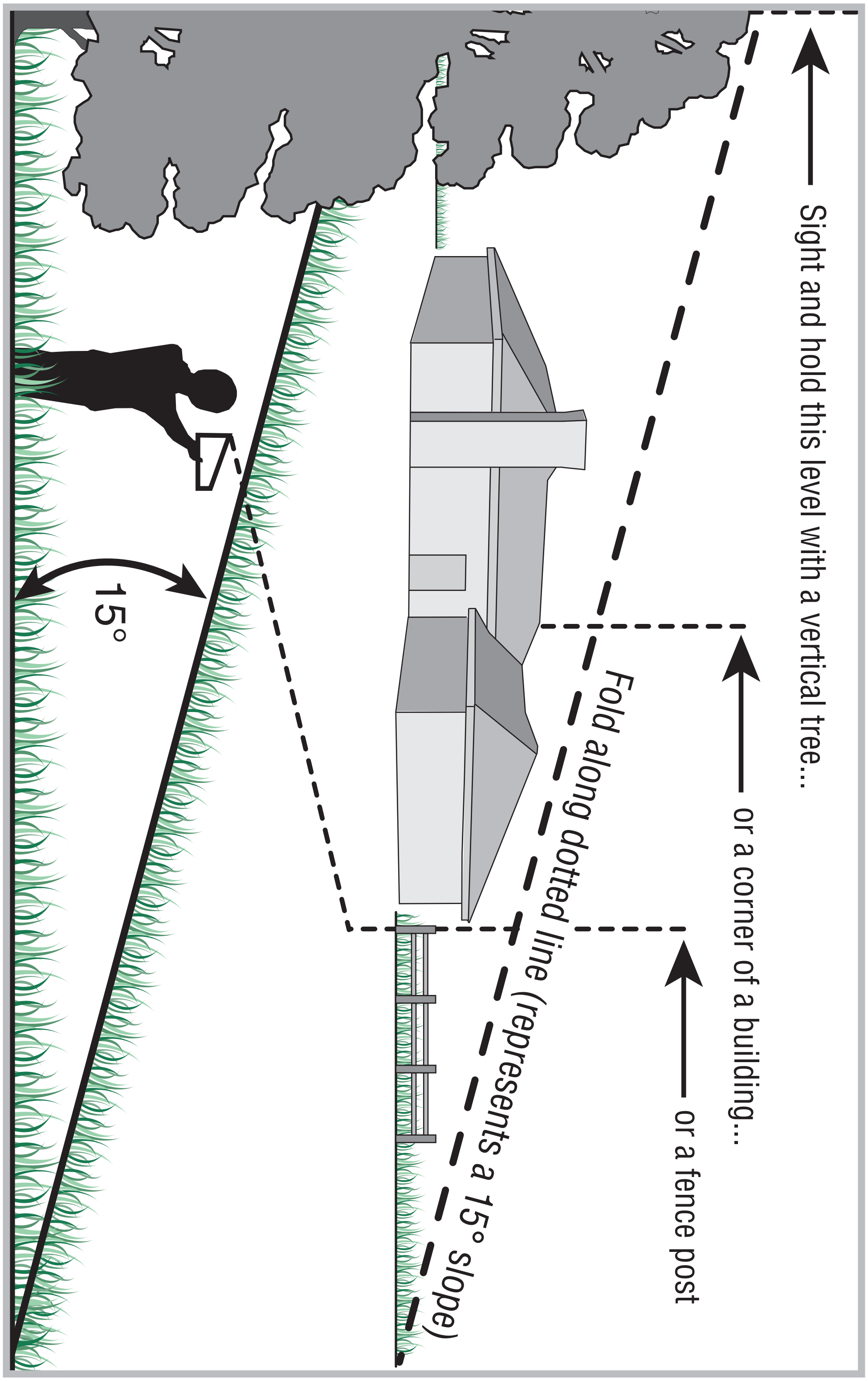
- Visit **www.mtdproducts.com**
- Call a Customer Support Representative at **1-800-800-7310**.
- The **engine manufacturer** is responsible for all engine-related issues with regards to performance, power-rating, specifications, warranty and service. Please refer to the engine manufacturer's Owner's/Operator's Manual, packed separately with your unit, for more information.

1

Slope Gauge

Use this page as a guide to determine slopes where you may not operate safely.

Do not operate your lawn mower on such slopes.


15°
Sight and hold this level with a vertical tree...
or a corner of a building...
or a fence post
Fold along dotted line (represents a 15° slope)

WARNING

Do not mow on inclines with a slope in excess of 15 degrees (a rise of approximately 2-1/2 feet every 10 feet). A riding mower could overturn and cause serious injury. If operating a walk-behind mower on such a slope, it is extremely difficult to maintain your footing and you could slip, resulting in serious injury.

Operate RIDING mowers up and down slopes, never across the face of slopes.

Operate WALK-BEHIND mowers across the face of slopes, never up and down slopes.

2

Safe Operation Practices

WARNING

This symbol points out important safety instructions which, if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol.

HEED ITS WARNING!

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

WARNING: Engine Exhaust, some of its constituents, and certain vehicle components contain or emit chemicals known to State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm.

DANGER: This machine was built to be operated according to the rules for safe operation in this manual. As with any type of power equipment, carelessness or error on the part of the operator can result in serious injury. This machine is capable of amputating hands and feet and throwing objects. Failure to observe the following safety instructions could result in serious injury or death.

Children

Tragic accidents can occur if operator is not alert to presence of children. Children are often attracted to mower and mowing activity. They do not understand the dangers. Never assume that children will remain where you last saw them.

1. Keep children out of the mowing area and under watchful care of a responsible adult other than the operator.
2. Be alert and turn mower off if a child enters the area.
3. Before and while moving backwards, look behind and down for small children.
4. Use extreme care when approaching blind corners, doorways, shrubs, trees, or other objects that may obscure your vision of a child who may run into the mower.
5. Keep children away from hot or running engines. They can suffer burns from a hot muffler.
6. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate a power mower. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand operation instructions and safety rules in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent.

General Operation

1. Read this operator's manual carefully in its entirety before attempting to assemble this machine. Read, understand, and follow all instructions on the machine and in the manual(s) before operation. Be completely familiar with the controls and the proper use of this machine before operating it. Keep this manual in a safe place for future and regular reference and for ordering replacement parts.
2. This machine is a precision piece of power equipment, not a plaything. Therefore, exercise extreme caution at all times. Your unit has been designed to perform one job: to mow grass. Do not use it for any other purpose.
3. Never allow children under 14 years old to operate this machine. Children 14 years old and over should read and understand the instructions in this manual and should be trained and supervised by a parent. Only responsible individuals who are familiar with these rules of safe operation should be allowed to use this machine.
4. Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used. Remove all stones, sticks, wire, bones, toys and other foreign objects, which could be tripped over or picked up and thrown by the blade. Thrown objects can cause serious personal injury. Plan your mowing pattern to avoid discharge of material toward roads, sidewalks, bystanders and the like. Also, avoid discharging material against a wall or obstruction, which may cause discharged material to ricochet back toward the operator.
5. To help avoid blade contact or a thrown object injury, stay in operator zone behind handles and keep children, bystanders, helpers and pets at least 75 feet from mower while it is in operation. Stop machine if anyone enters area.
6. Always wear safety glasses or safety goggles during operation and while performing an adjustment or repair to protect your eyes. Thrown objects which ricochet can cause serious injury to the eyes.
7. Wear sturdy, rough-soled work shoes and close-fitting slacks and shirts. Shirts and pants that cover the arms and legs and steel-toed shoes are recommended. Never operate this machine in bare feet, sandals, slippery or light-weight (e.g. canvas) shoes.
8. Do not put hands or feet near rotating parts or under cutting deck. Contact with blade can amputate hands and feet.
9. A missing or damaged discharge cover can cause blade contact or thrown object injuries.
10. Many injuries occur as a result of the mower being pulled over the foot during a fall caused by slipping or tripping. Do not hold on to the mower if you are falling; release the handle immediately.
11. Never pull the mower back toward you while you are walking. If you must back the mower away from a wall or obstruction first look down and behind to avoid tripping and then follow these steps:
    a. Step back from mower to fully extend your arms.
    b. Be sure you are well balanced with sure footing.
    c. Pull the mower back slowly, no more than half way toward you.
    d. Repeat these steps as needed.
12. Do not operate the mower while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
13. Do not engage the self-propelled mechanism on units so equipped while starting engine.
14. The blade control handle is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operation. Doing so makes the safety device inoperative and may result in personal injury through contact with the rotating blade. The blade control handle must operate easily in both directions and automatically return to the disengaged position when released.
15. Never operate the mower in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your footing, release the blade control handle immediately and the blade will stop rotating within three seconds.
16. Mow only in daylight or good artificial light. Walk, never run.
17. Stop the blade when crossing gravel drives, walks or roads.
18. If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.

19. Shut the engine off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging the chute.
    The cutting blade continues to rotate for a few seconds after the engine is shut off. Never place any part of the body in the blade area until you are sure the blade has stopped rotating.
20. Never operate mower without proper trail shield, discharge cover, grass catcher, blade control handle or other safety protective devices in place and working. Never operate mower with damaged safety devices. Failure to do so can result in personal injury.
21. Muffler and engine become hot and can cause a burn. Do not touch.
22. Only use parts and accessories made for this machine by manufacturer. Failure to do so can result in personal injury.
23. If situations occur which are not covered in this manual, use care and good judgment. Contact your dealer for assistance.

Slope Operation

Slopes are a major factor related to slip and fall accidents, which can result in severe injury. Operation on slopes requires extra caution. If you feel uneasy on a slope, do not mow it. For your safety, use the slope gauge included as part of this manual to measure slopes before operating this unit on a sloped or hilly area. If the slope is greater than 15 degrees, do not mow it.

Do:

1. Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes.
2. Watch for holes, ruts, rocks, hidden objects, or bumps which can cause you to slip or trip. Tall grass can hide obstacles.
3. Always be sure of your footing. A slip and fall can cause serious personal injury. If you feel you are losing your balance, release the blade control handle immediately, and the blade will stop rotating within 3 seconds.

Do Not:

1. Do not mow near drop-offs, ditches or embankments, you could lose your footing or balance.
2. Do not mow slopes greater than 15 degrees as shown on the slope gauge.
3. Do not mow on wet grass. Unstable footing could cause slipping.

Service

Safe Handling Of Gasoline:

1. To avoid personal injury or property damage use extreme care in handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Serious personal injury can occur when gasoline is spilled on yourself or your clothes, which can ignite. Wash your skin and change clothes immediately.
2. Use only an approved gasoline container.
3. Never fill containers inside a vehicle or on a truck or trailer bed with a plastic liner. Always place containers on the ground away from your vehicle before filling.
4. Remove gas-powered equipment from the truck or trailer and refuel it on the ground. If this is not possible, then refuel such equipment on a trailer with a portable container, rather than from a gasoline dispenser nozzle.
5. Keep the nozzle in contact with the rim of the fuel tank or container opening at all times until fueling is complete. Do not use a nozzle lock-open device.
6. Extinguish all cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.
7. Never fuel machine indoor because flammable vapors will accumulate in the area.
8. Never remove gas cap or add fuel while engine is hot or running. Allow engine to cool at least two minutes before refueling.
9. Never over fill fuel tank. Fill tank to no more than ½ inch below bottom of filler neck to provide for fuel expansion.
10. Replace gasoline cap and tighten securely.
11. If gasoline is spilled, wipe it off the engine and equipment. Move unit to another area. Wait 5 minutes before starting engine.
12. Never store the machine or fuel container near an open flame, spark or pilot light as on a water heater, space heater, furnace, clothes dryer or other gas appliances.
13. To reduce fire hazard, keep mower free of grass, leaves, or other debris build-up. Clean up oil or fuel spillage and remove any fuel soaked debris.
14. Allow a mower to cool at least 5 minutes before storing.

General Service:

1. Never run an engine indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas.
2. Before cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine to prevent unintended starting.
3. Check the blade and engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness. Also, visually inspect blade for damage (e.g., bent, cracked, worn) Replace blade with the original equipment manufacture's (O.E.M.) blade only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
4. Mower blades are sharp and can cut. Wrap the blade or wear gloves, and use extra caution when servicing them.
5. Keep all nuts, bolts, and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
6. Never tamper with safety devices. Check their proper operation regularly.
7. After striking a foreign object, stop the engine, disconnect the spark plug wire and ground against the engine. Thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage. Repair the damage before starting and operating the mower.
8. Never attempt to make a wheel or cutting height adjustment while the engine is running.
9. Grass catcher components, discharge cover, and trail shield are subject to wear and damage which could expose moving parts or allow objects to be thrown. For safety protection, frequently check components and replace immediately with original equipment manufacturer's (O.E.M.) parts only, listed in this manual. "Use of parts which do not meet the original equipment specifications may lead to improper performance and compromise safety!"
10. Do not change the engine governor setting or over-rev the engine. The governor controls the maximum safe operating speed of the engine.
11. Maintain or replace safety labels, as necessary.
12. Observe proper disposal laws and regulations. Improper disposal of fluids and materials can harm the environment.

2

Safe Operation Practices

WARNING

This symbol points out important safety instructions, which if not followed, could endanger the personal safety and/or property of yourself and others. Read and follow all instructions in this manual before attempting to operate this machine. Failure to comply with these instructions may result in personal injury. When you see this symbol.

HEED IT'S WARNING!

Your Responsibility

Restrict the use of this power machine to persons who read, understand and follow the warnings and instructions in this manual and on the machine.

3

Setup and Adjustment

NOTE: This Operator's Manual covers several models. Lawn Mower features vary by model. Not all features discussed (or engines pictured) in this manual are applicable to all Lawn Mower models.

NOTE: Stand behind the mower as if you were going to operate it. Your right hand corresponds to the right side of the mower; your left hand corresponds to the left side of the mower.

NOTE: Your mower is shipped with the handle in the higher height position.

NOTE: Each end of the lower handle must be placed in the same relative position.

IMPORTANT
DO NOT crimp the cables when lifting the handle up. Make sure to route the cables inside the lower handle.

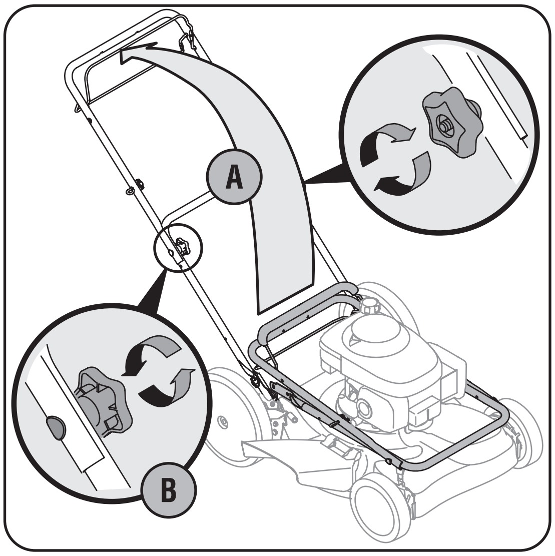


Figure 3-1

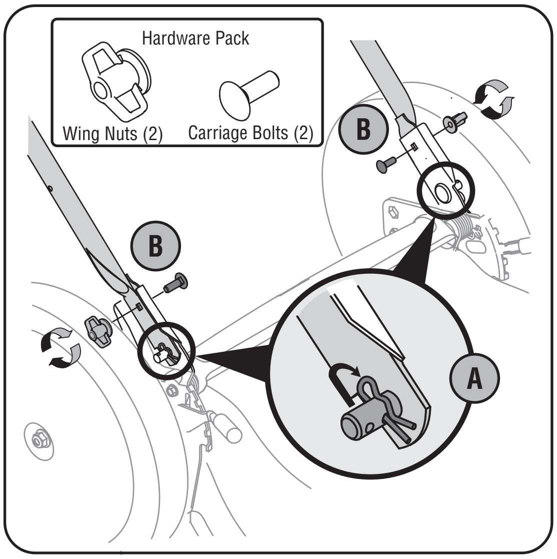


Figure 3-2

1. Remove any packing material which may be between upper and lower handles.
   a. Pull up and back on upper handle as shown in Figure 3-1. Make certain the lower handle is seated securely into the handle mounting brackets.
   b. Tighten hand knobs securing upper handle to lower handle. Make sure that each carriage bolt is seated properly in the handle.
2. Locate hairpin clip in one hole on the weld pin on each side of lower handle.
   a. Remove hairpin clip from this hole. Using a pair of pliers, insert hairpin clip into the other hole on the weld pin. Repeat on other side. See Figure 3-2.
   b. Insert a carriage bolt from the hardware pack into the upper hole on the handle mounting bracket. Secure with one plastic wing nut, also included in the hardware pack. Repeat on other side with remaining items from hardware pack.
3. The rope guide is attached to the right side of the upper handle. Loosen the wing nut which secures the rope guide.
   a. Hold the blade control against upper handle.
   b. Pull starter rope out of the engine. Release the blade control. See Figure 3-3.
   c. Slip starter rope into rope guide.
   d. Tighten wing nut.
4. Insert post on cable ties into holes provided on the lower handle. Pull cable tie tight and trim excess.
5. An adjusting plate and thumb lever at each wheel position provides cutting height adjustment.
   a. Depress lever towards wheel.
   b. Move it to any of the nine positions for desired cutting height. See Figure 3-5.
   c. Release lever towards mower deck.

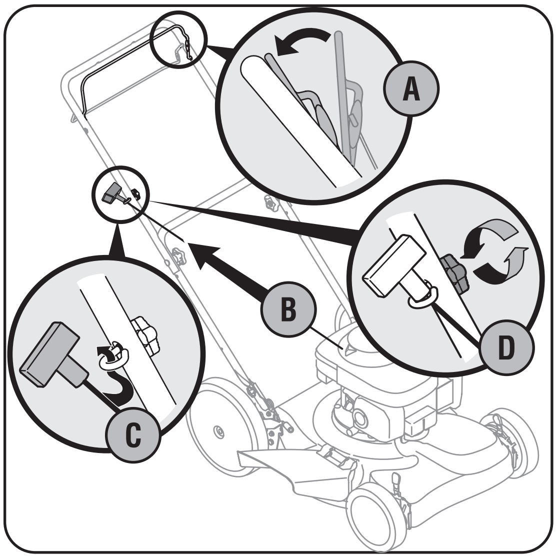


Figure 3-3

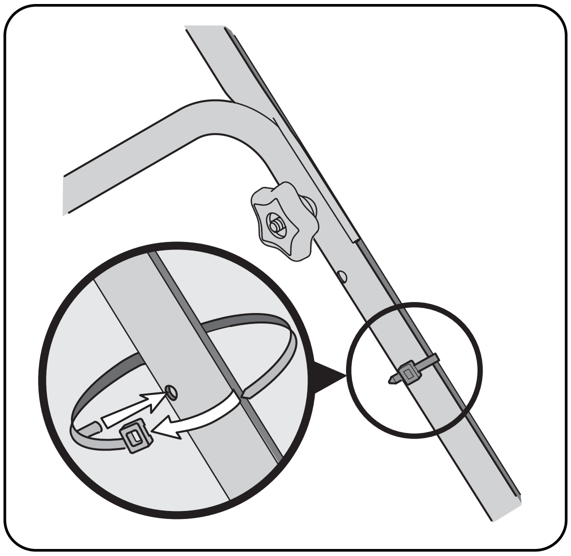


Figure 3-4

6. Follow steps below to assemble the grass catcher:
   a. Place bag over frame so that its black plastic side is at the bottom.
   b. Slip plastic channel of grass bag over hooks on the frame. See Figure 3-6. All the plastic channels except center top of bag attach from outside of bag.
   c. Attach center top of bag from inside of bag.
7. Follow steps below to attach grass catcher:
   a. Lift rear discharge door.
   b. Place grass catcher on the pivot rod. Let go of discharge door so that it rests on the grass catcher. See Figure 3-7.

To remove grass catcher or convert to a mulcher (if equipped), lift rear discharge door on the mower as shown in Figure 3-7. Lift grass catcher up and out of the pivot rod. Release rear discharge door to allow it to close rear opening of mower.

WARNING: Never operate mower unless the hooks on the grass catcher are firmly seated in the slots on the handle bracket assemblies, and the rear discharge door rests firmly against top of the grass catcher.

8. If coverting to side discharge, make sure grass catcher is off unit and rear discharge door is closed.
   a. Lift mulching plug on the right side of mower.
   b. Slide two hooks of side discharge chute under the hinge pin on the mulching plug assembly and lower the side mulching plug. See Figure 3-8.

NOTE: Do not remove the side mulching plug at any time, even when you are not mulching.

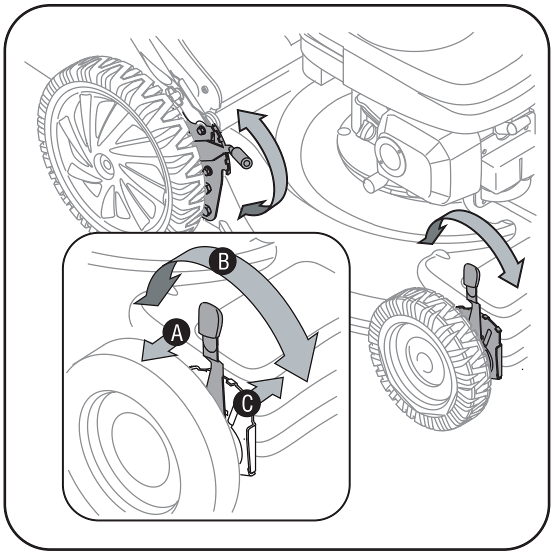


Figure 3-5

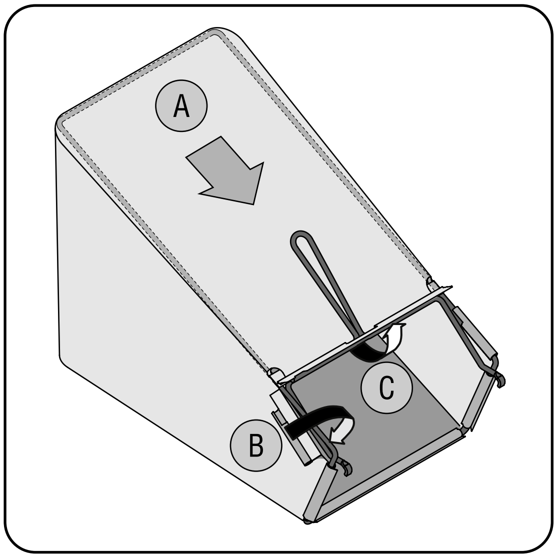


Figure 3-6

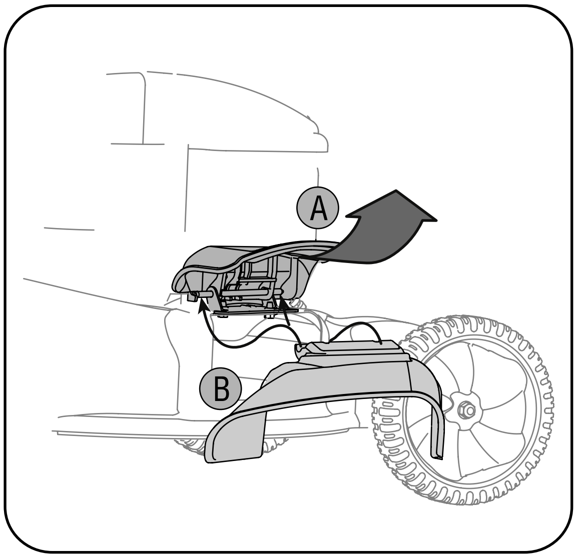


Figure 3-8

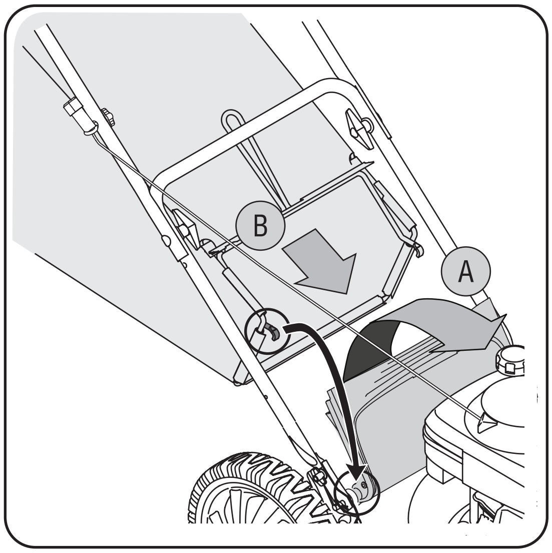


Figure 3-7

CUTTING HEIGHT
All wheels must be placed in the same relative position.

GRASS CATCHER
Make certain bag is turned right side out before assembling (warning label will be on the outside).

WARNING

Never operate mower unless the hooks on the grass catcher are firmly seated in the slots on the handle bracket assemblies, and the rear discharge door rests firmly against top of the grass catcher.

4

Operating Your Lawn Mower

WARNING

The blade control mechanism is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations.

Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. *Never* fuel the machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.

Keep hands and feet away from the chute area on cutting deck. Refer to warning label on the unit.

Know Your Lawn Mower

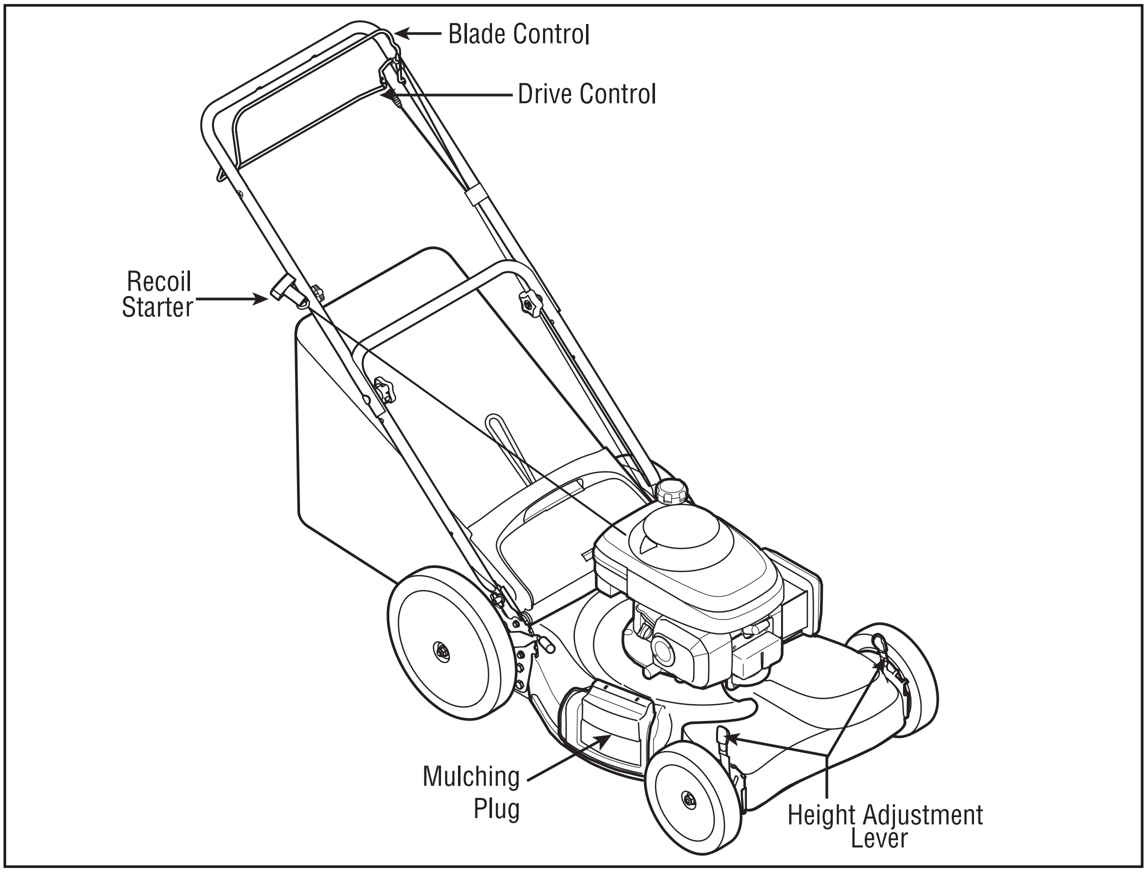


Figure 4-1

Now that you have set up your lawn mower for operation, get aquainted with its controls and features. These are described below and illustrated on this page. This knowledge will allow you to use your new equipment to its fullest potential.

Blade Control

The blade control is attached to the upper handle of the mower. Depress and squeeze it against the upper handle to operate the unit. Release it to stop engine and blade. See Figure 4-1.

WARNING: This blade control mechanism is a safety device. Never attempt to bypass its operations.

Drive Control

The drive control is located on the underside of the upper handle and is used to engage the drive. Squeeze it against the upper handle to engage the drive; release it to slow down or stop mower from propelling.

Mulching Plug

The mulching plug is used only for mulching purposes. Instead of collecting the grass clippings in the grass catcher, your mower has the option of recirculating the clippings back to the lawn. Make sure that the rear discharge door is closed and the grass catcher is removed from unit while mulching.

Cutting Height Adjustment Levers

One adjustment lever is located on each wheel and is used to adjust the cutting height. All four levers have to be at the same relative position to ensure a uniform cut.

Recoil Starter

The recoil starter is attached to the right upper handle. Stand behind the unit and pull the recoil starter rope to start the unit.

Gas and Oil Fill-Up

1. Check oil level and add oil if necessary. Follow engine manual for this.
2. Service the engine with gasoline as instructed in the engine manual. See Engine manual for location of oil and gas fill.

WARNING: Use extreme care when handling gasoline. Gasoline is extremely flammable and the vapors are explosive. Never fuel the machine indoors or while the engine is hot or running. Extinguish cigarettes, cigars, pipes and other sources of ignition.

WARNING: The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects being thrown into the eyes, which can damage your eyes severely. Always wear safety glasses while operating the mower, or while performing any adjustments or repairs on it.

4

Operating Your Lawn Mower

Starting Engine

WARNING: Be sure no one other than the operator is standing near the lawn mower while starting engine or operating mower. Never run engine indoors or in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas. Keep hands, feet, hair and loose clothing away from any moving parts on engine and lawn mower.

Follow the set of instructions pertaining to your unit. Refer to engine manual for help with the engine.

Briggs & Stratton/ Tecumseh Engine:

1. Push primer three times. Wait about two seconds between each push. See Figure 4-2. In temperature around 55° F or below, prime five times. Do not prime to restart a warm engine.
2. Standing behind the mower, squeeze the blade control against upper handle as shown in Figure 4-2.
3. Holding these two handles together firmly, grasp recoil starter handle and pull rope out with a rapid, continuous, full arm stroke. Keeping a firm grip on the starter handle, let the rope rewind slowly. Repeat until engine cranks. Let the rope rewind each time slowly.

Honda Engine:

1. Place the fuel valve lever found on the left side of the engine into the ON (OPEN) position.
2. Move the choke lever all the way backward into the choke position. See Figure 4-3.
3. Standing behind the mower, squeeze the blade control against upper handle as shown in Figure 4-3. The choke will now begin to slowly return to the off choke position after activating the blade control. Therefore, quickly move onto step four below.
4. Holding these two handles together firmly, grasp recoil starter handle and pull rope out with a rapid, continuous, full arm stroke. Keeping a firm grip on the starter handle let the rope rewind slowly. Repeat until engine cranks. Let the rope rewind each time slowly.

WARNING: Wait for the blade to stop completely before performing any work on the mower or to remove the grass catcher.

Stopping Engine

1. Release blade control to stop the engine and blade.
2. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug and ground against the engine.

Using Your Lawn Mower

Be sure lawn is clear of stones, sticks, wire, or other objects which could damage lawn mower or engine. Such objects could be accidently thrown by the mower in any direction and cause serious personal injury to the operator and others.

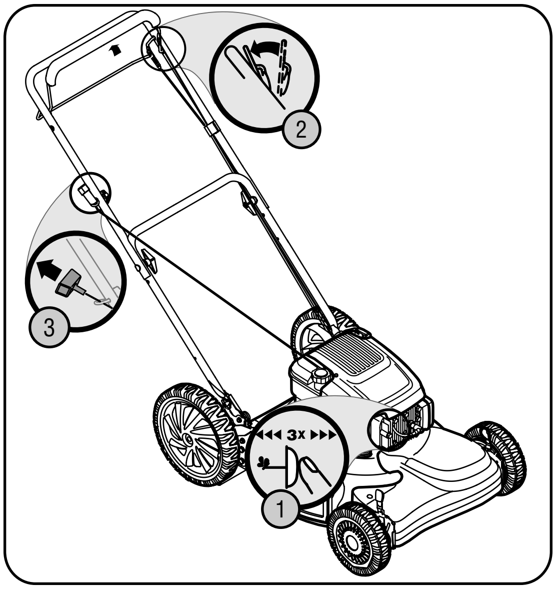


Figure 4-2

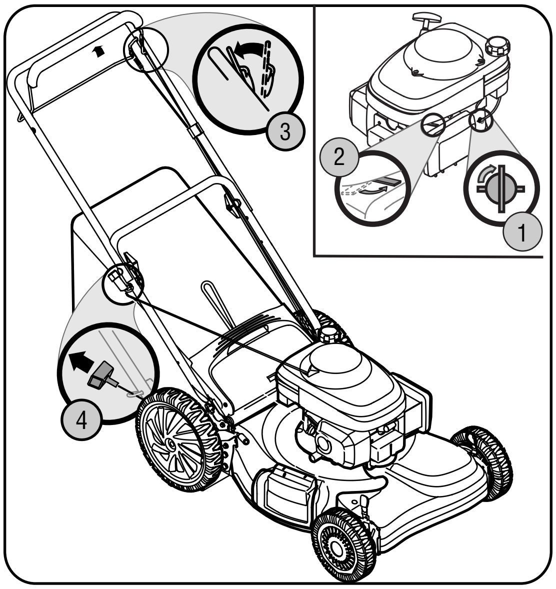


Figure 4-3

WARNING: If you strike a foreign object, stop the engine. Remove wire from the spark plug, thoroughly inspect mower for any damage, and repair damage before restarting and operating. Extensive vibration of mower during operation is an indication of damage. The unit should be promptly inspected and repaired.

Using as Mulcher

For mulching grass, remove the grass catcher and side discharge chute from the mower. For effective mulching, do not cut wet grass. If the grass has been allowed to grow in excess of four inches, mulching is not recommended. Use the grass catcher to bag clippings instead.

Using Grass Catcher

You can use the grass catcher to collect clippings while you are operating the mower. Refer to setup section for instructions on attaching the grass catcher.

WARNING

The operation of any lawn mower can result in foreign objects being thrown into the eyes, which can damage your eyes severely. Always wear safety glasses while operating the mower, or while performing any adjustments or repairs on it.

Be sure no one other than the operator is standing near the lawn mower while starting engine or operating mower. Never run engine indoors or in enclosed, poorly ventilated areas. Engine exhaust contains carbon monoxide, an odorless and deadly gas. Keep hands, feet, hair and loose clothing away from any moving parts on engine and lawn mower.

5

Maintaining Your Lawn Mower

WARNING

Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug, and ground against engine before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of maintenance on your machine.

We do not recommend the use of pressure washers or garden hose to clean your unit. These may cause damage to electric components, spindles, pulleys, bearings, or the engine. The use of water will result in shortened life and reduce serviceability.

NOTE: This Operator's Manual covers several models. Lawn Mower features vary by model. Not all features discussed (or engines pictured) in this manual are applicable to all Lawn Mower models.

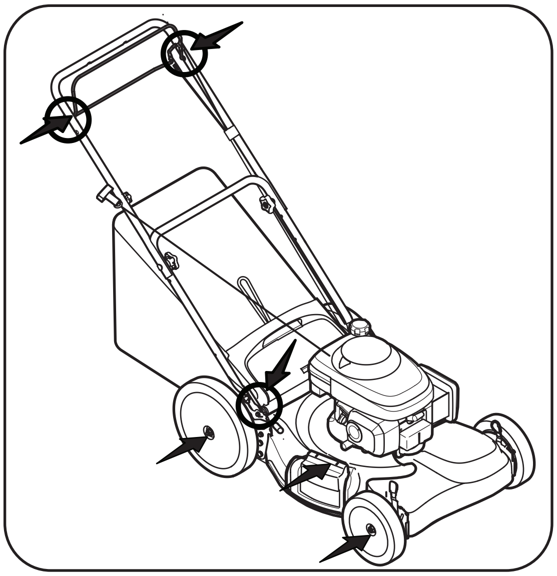


Figure 5-1

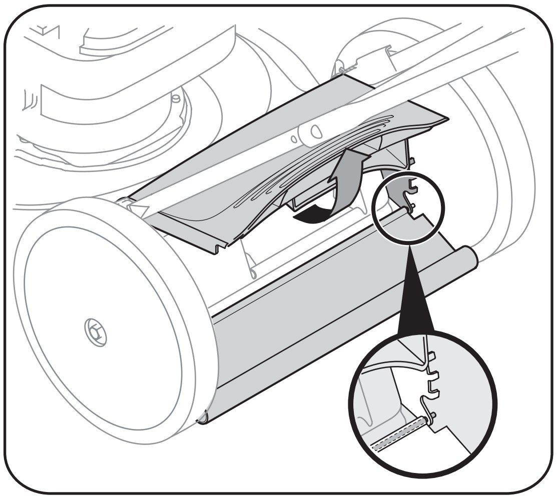


Figure 5-2

General Recommendations

1. Always observe safety rules when performing any maintenance.
2. The warranty on this lawn mower does not cover items that have been subjected to operator abuse or negligence. To receive full value from warranty, operator must maintain the lawn mower as instructed here.
3. Changing of engine-governed speed will void engine warranty.
4. All adjustments should be checked at least once each season.
5. Periodically check all fasteners and make sure these are tight.

WARNING: Always stop engine, disconnect spark plug, and ground against engine before cleaning, lubricating or doing any kind of maintenance on your machine.

Lubrication

1. Lubricate pivot points on the blade control at least once a season with light oil. The blade control must operate freely in both directions. See Figure 5-1.
2. Lubricate the wheels at least once a season with light oil (or motor oil). If wheels are removed for any reason, lubricate surface of the pivot arm and inner surface of the wheel with light oil. See Figure 5-1.
3. Lubricate the torsion spring and pivot point on each end of the rear discharge door and the side mulching plug periodically with light oil to prevent rust. See Figure 5-1.
4. The transmission is pre-lubricated and sealed at the factory and does not require lubrication.
5. Follow the accompanying engine manual for lubrication schedule and instruction for engine lubrication.

Deck Care

1. Disconnect spark plug wire. Drain gasoline from lawn mower, or place a piece of plastic under the gas cap.
2. Tip mower so that it rests on the housing. Keep the side with the air cleaner facing up. Hold mower firmly.

WARNING: Never tip the mower more than 90 degrees in any directions and do not leave the mower tipped for any length of time. Oil can drain into the upper part of the engine causing a starting problem.

3. Scrape and clean the underside of the deck with a suitable tool. Do not spray with water.
4. Put the mower back on its wheels on the ground. If you had put plastic under the gas cap earlier, make sure to remove it now.

Engine Care

1. Maintain oil level as instructed in engine manual.
2. Service air cleaner every 25 hours under normal conditions. Clean every few hours under extremely dusty conditions. Refer to engine manual.
3. Clean spark plug and reset the gap once a season. Check engine manual for correct plug type and gap specifications.
4. Clean engine regularly with a cloth or brush. Keep the cooling system (blower housing area) clean to permit proper air circulation. Remove all grass, dirt and combustible debris from muffler area.

Replacing Rear Flap

1. To remove rear flap, lift rear door, and press flap in on either side to remove from hole. See Figure 5-2.
2. Remove flap from opposite hole and replace with new flap in the opposite order and manner of removal.

Blade Care

WARNING: When removing cutting blade for sharpening or replacement, protect your hands with a pair of heavy gloves or use a heavy rag to hold blade.

1. Disconnect spark plug wire from spark plug. Turn mower on its side making sure that the air filter and the carburetor are up.
2. Remove bolt, blade bell support, blade, and blade adapter from the engine crankshaft. See Figure 5-3.
3. The blade can be sharpened with a file or on a grinding wheel. Do not attempt to sharpen the blade while it is still on the mower. When sharpening blade, follow original angle of grind. Grind cutting edges equally to keep blade balanced.
4. Remove blade from the adapter for testing balance. Balance the blade on a round shaft screwdriver to check. Remove metal from the heavy side until it balances evenly.

WARNING: An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds. It may cause damage to mower, and could break causing personal injury.

5. Lubricate the engine crankshaft and the inner surface of the blade adapter with light oil. Slide the blade adapter onto the engine crankshaft. Place the blade on the adapter such that the side of the blade marked "Bottom" (or with part number) faces the ground when the mower is in the operating position. Make sure that blade is aligned and seated on blade adapter flanges.
6. Place blade bell support on the blade. Align notches on the blade bell support with small holes in blade. Replace hex bolt and tighten hex bolt to torque: 450 in. lbs. min., 600 in. lbs. max.

To ensure safe operation of your mower, periodically check the blade bolt for correct torque.

Belt Care

1. Remove two shoulder screws securing front drive cover to mower deck. See Figure 5-4. Press inward on sides of front drive cover and release tabs that secure it to the height adjuster brackets. Remove drive cover from mower.
2. Loosen screw holding belt tension spring to transmission. See Figure 5-4 inset. Do not remove screw completely. As you loosen it, tension on the belt will be released.
3. Push transmission up a little and slide belt off the transmission pulley. Lift mower to access belt from underside of mower. Slide belt off of engine pulley and around the blade. See Figure 5-5.

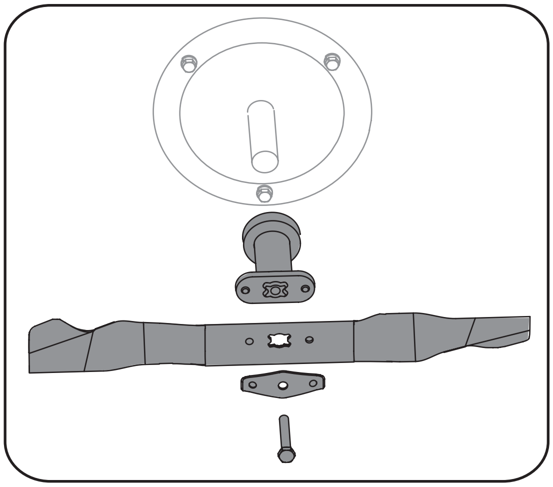


Figure 5-3

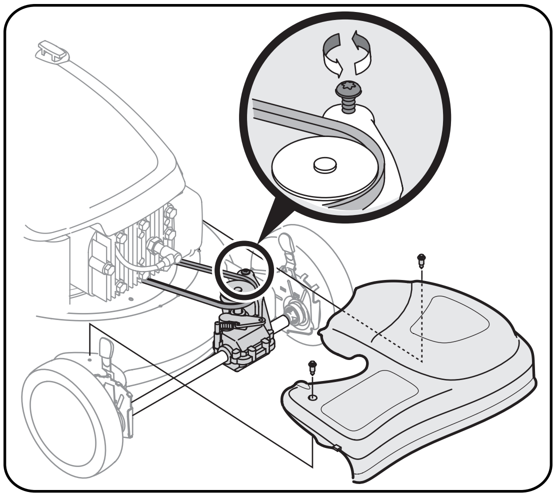


Figure 5-4

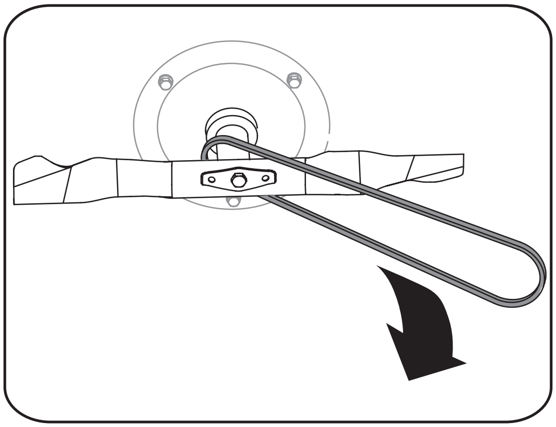


Figure 5-5

4. Replace with new belt, working around blade. Make sure belt is firmly seated on engine pulley while pulling from the other side and sliding it around the transmission pulley. Tighten screw loosened earlier to secure belt tension spring to the transmission. Reassemble front drive cover.

WARNING

When removing the cutting blade for sharpening or replacement or when sliding the belt around it, protect your hands with a pair of heavy gloves or use a heavy rag to hold the blade.

An unbalanced blade will cause excessive vibration when rotating at high speeds. It may cause damage to mower, and could break causing personal injury.

6

Trouble Shooting

For repairs beyond the minor adjustments listed here, contact an authorized service dealer.

Problem	Cause	Remedy
Engine fails to start	1. Blade control disengaged. 2. Spark plug wire disconnected. 3. Fuel tank empty or stale fuel. 4. Engine not primed. 5. Faulty spark plug. 6. Blocked fuel line. 7. Engine flooded.	1. Engage blade control. 2. Connect wire to spark plug. 3. Fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline. 4. Prime engine as instructed in “Operating Your Lawn Mower”. 5. Clean, adjust gap, or replace. 6. Clean fuel line. 7. Wait a few minutes to restart, but do not prime.
Engine runs erratic	1. Spark plug wire loose. 2. Blocked fuel line or stale fuel. 3. Vent in gas cap plugged. 4. Water or dirt in fuel system. 5. Dirty air cleaner. 6. Carburetor out of adjustment.	1. Connect and tighten spark plug wire. 2. Clean fuel line; fill tank with clean, fresh gasoline. 3. Clear vent. 4. Drain fuel tank. Refill with fresh fuel. 5. Refer to engine manual. 6. Refer to engine manual.
Engine overheats	1. Engine oil level low. 2. Air flow restricted. 3. Carburetor not adjusted properly.	1. Fill crankcase with proper oil. 2. Remove blower housing and clean. 3. Refer to engine manual.
Occasional skips (hesitates) at high speed	1. Spark plug gap too close. 2. Carburetor idle mixture adjustment improperly set.	1. Adjust gap to .030”. 2. Refer to engine manual.
Idles poorly	1. Spark plug fouled, faulty or gap too wide. 2. Carburetor improperly adjusted. 3. Dirty air cleaner.	1. Reset gap to .030” or replace spark plug. 2. Refer to engine manual. 3. Refer to engine manual.
Excessive Vibration	1. Cutting blade loose or unbalanced. 2. Bent cutting blade.	1. Tighten blade and adapter. Balance blade. 2. See an authorized service dealer.
Mower will not mulch grass (If Equipped)	1. Wet grass. 2. Excessively high grass. 3. Dull blade.	1. Do not mow when grass is wet; wait until later to cut. 2. Mow once at a high cutting height, then mow again at desired height or make a narrower cutting path. 3. Sharpen or replace blade.
Uneven cut	1. Wheels not positioned correctly. 2. Dull blade.	1. Place all four wheels in same height position. 2. Sharpen or replace blade.
Mower will not self propel	1. Belt not installed properly. 2. Debris clogging drive operation. 3. Damaged or worn belt.	1. Check belt for proper pulley installation and movement. 2. Stop engine, disconnect spark plug wire and clean out debris. 3. Inspect and replace belt.

Off-Season Storage

The following steps should be taken to prepare your lawn mower for storage.

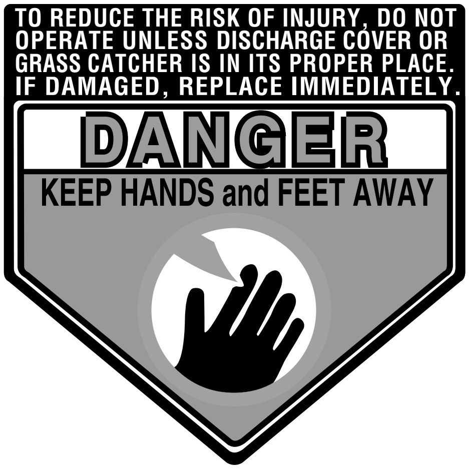
1. Clean and lubricate mower thoroughly as described in the lubrication instructions.
2. We do not recommend the use of a pressure washer or garden hose to clean your unit.
3. Refer to engine manual for correct engine storage instructions.
4. Coat mower's cutting blade with chassis grease to prevent rusting.
5. Store mower in a dry, clean area. Do not store next to corrosive materials, such as fertilizer.

When storing any type of power equipment in a poorly ventilated or metal storage shed, care should be taken to rust-proof the equipment. Using a light oil or silicone, coat the equipment, especially cables and all moving parts of your lawn mower before storage.

WARNING

DO NOT remove safety (or any) labels from mower for any reason.

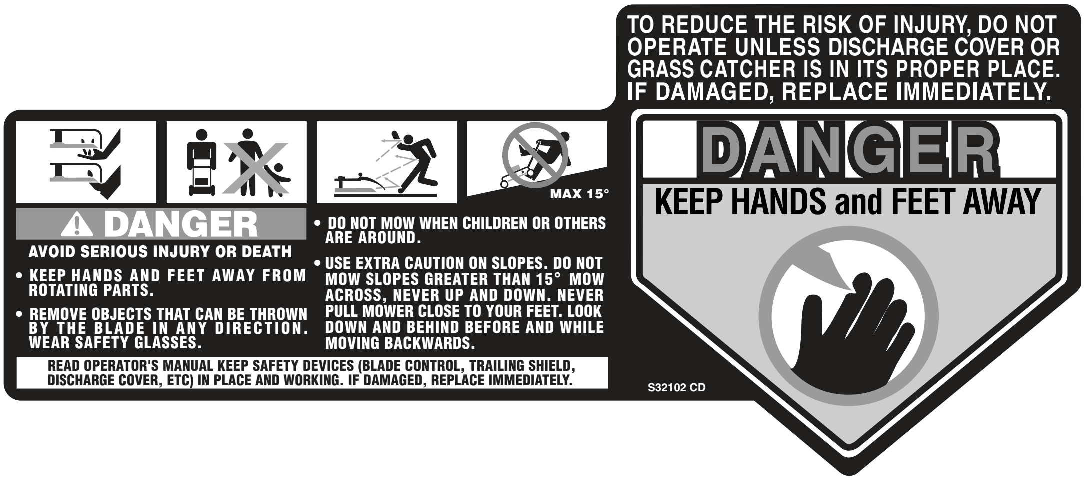
Safety Labels Found On Your Lawn Mower



TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURY, DO NOT OPERATE UNLESS DISCHARGE COVER OR GRASS CATCHER IS IN ITS PROPER PLACE. IF DAMAGED, REPLACE IMMEDIATELY.

DANGER

KEEP HANDS and FEET AWAY



TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INJURY, DO NOT OPERATE UNLESS DISCHARGE COVER OR GRASS CATCHER IS IN ITS PROPER PLACE. IF DAMAGED, REPLACE IMMEDIATELY.

DANGER

KEEP HANDS and FEET AWAY

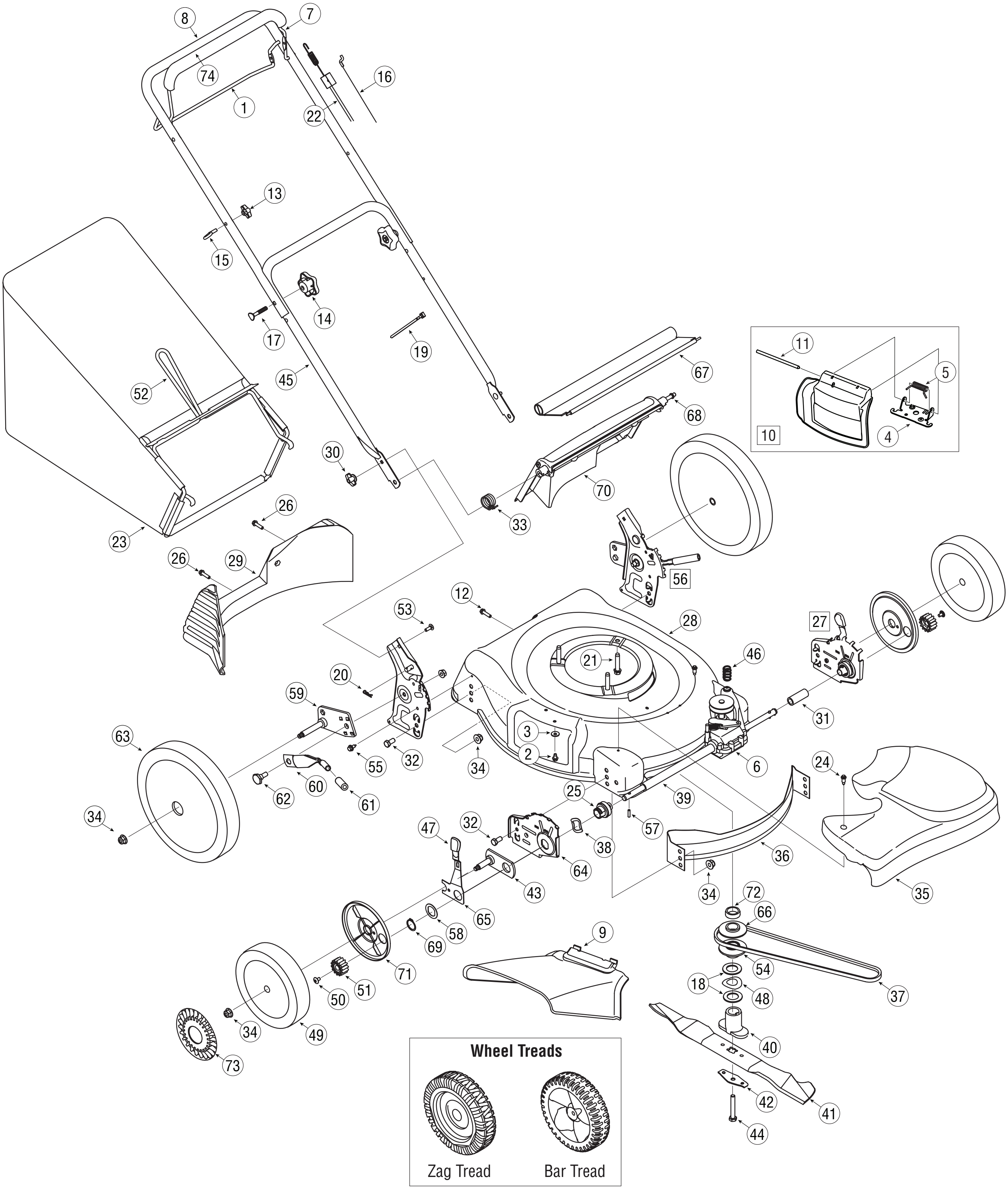
⚠ DANGER

AVOID SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH

- KEEP HANDS AND FEET AWAY FROM ROTATING PARTS.
- REMOVE OBJECTS THAT CAN BE THROWN BY THE BLADE IN ANY DIRECTION. WEAR SAFETY GLASSES.
- DO NOT MOW WHEN CHILDREN OR OTHERS ARE AROUND.
- USE EXTRA CAUTION ON SLOPES. DO NOT MOW SLOPES GREATER THAN 15° MOW ACROSS, NEVER UP AND DOWN. NEVER PULL MOWER CLOSE TO YOUR FEET. LOOK DOWN AND BEHIND BEFORE AND WHILE MOVING BACKWARDS.

READ OPERATOR'S MANUAL KEEP SAFETY DEVICES (BLADE CONTROL, TRAILING SHIELD, DISCHARGE COVER, ETC) IN PLACE AND WORKING. IF DAMAGED, REPLACE IMMEDIATELY.

Model Series 560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Wheel Treads
Zag Tread
Bar Tread

8

Parts List

Ref. No.	Part No.	Description
1	747-1214	Drive Control
2	710-0599	TT Screw 1/4-20 x 0.5
3	736-0270	Bell Washer.265 x 0.75
4	17032A	Deflector Chute Adapter
5	732-1014	Torsion Spring
6	618-04376A	Transmission Assembly
7	747-1161A	Blade Control
8	749-1092A	Upper Handle
9	731-04177	Chute Deflector
10	687-02055	Mulch Plug Complete
11	747-0710	Hinge Pin
12	710-0286	Screw, Machine, 1/4-20 x .500
13	720-0279	Handle Knob
14	720-04072	Star Knob
15	710-1205	Eye Bolt
16	746-1113	Control Cable - 37.750”
17	710-1174	Carriage Bolt 5/16-18 x 2.0
18	736-0250	Washer, Flat, 1.00 x 1.25 x .107
19	726-0240	Cable Tie
20	714-0104	Cotter Pin
21	710-0654A	Self-Tapping Sems Screw
22	746-04203	Drive Cable - 51”
23	664-04027	Grassbag Assembly
24	710-1650	Shoulder Screw # 12 -24
25	682-0015	Front Bearing Assembly
26	710-1241	Screw, 1/4-15 x 1.000
27	687-02194	Height Adjustment Ass’y - RH
	687-02193	Height Adjustment Ass’y - LH
28	787-01278	21” Deck
29	731-04150C	Rear Baffle
30	712-0397	Wing Nut
31	750-04595	Slev. Spacer 1.4” Lg.
32	710-0216	Hex Screw, 3/8-16 x.75
33	732-04090A	Torsion Spring - RH
34	712-04065	Flange Lock Nut, 3/8-16
35	731-05132A	Transmission Cover
36	782-5002B	Front Baffle
37	754-0637A	V-Belt
38	736-0447	Wave Washer
39	750-04594	Sleeve Spacer 8.985” Lg.

Ref. No.	Part No.	Description
40	748-04082	Blade Adapter
41	742-0741	21” Mulching Blade
42	736-0524B	Blade Bell Support
43	687-02044	Pivot Plate Assembly
44	710-1257	Hex Screw 3/8-24 x 2.50
45	749-0928A	Lower Handle
46	732-1043	Belt Tension Spring
47	720-0426	Adjustment Knob
48	736-04173	Wash, Sprg, 1.005 x 1.825 x .048
49	634-0190	Front Wheel 8 x 1.8, Bar
50	710-04531	Screw, 1/4-20 x .390
51	717-1762	Gear 14T RH FWD
	717-1761	Gear 14T LH FWD
52	747-04080	Grass Bag Frame
53	710-0703	Carriage Bolt 1/4-20
54	756-04160	Pulley, Half
55	710-1652	TT Scr. w/Washer 1/4-20 x.625
56	687-02280	Handle Bracket Assembly - LH
	687-02279	Handle Bracket Assembly - RH
57	715-0221	Dowel Pin
58	736-0474	Washer
59	687-02039A	Pivot Arm Assembly - RH
	687-02040A	Pivot Arm Assembly - LH
60	732-0866	Rear Spring Lever
61	720-0312	Foam Grip
62	738-0507B	Shoulder Scr.500 Dia. x.434
63	734-04082	Rear Wheel, 12 x 1.8, Bar
64	782-01298	Height Adjuster Plate - RH
	782-01299	Height Adjuster Plate - LH
65	732-0706	Front Lever - RH
	732-0707	Front Lever - LH
66	756-04161	Pulley, Half
67	731-05642	Rear Trailing Shield
68	747-04588	Pivot Rod
69	716-0102	Snap Ring
70	631-04225	Rear Discharge Door
71	782-7551A	Wheel Dust Cap
72	750-04438A	Spcr, Slev, 25mm x 1.375 x .620
73	731-0981A†	Hub Cap
74	731-2626†	Deluxe Bail Cover

† If equipped

MTD For A Growing World. GENUINE FACTORY PARTS

To order replacement parts, call 1-800-800-7310 or visit us on the web at www.mtdproducts.com

IMPORTANT

For a proper working machine, use Factory Approved Parts. **V-BELTS** are specially designed to engage and disengage safely. A substitute (non OEM) V-Belt can be dangerous by not disengaging completely.

MANUFACTURER'S LIMITED WARRANTY FOR

MTD

For A Growing World.™ ®

The limited warranty set forth below is given by MTD LLC with respect to new merchandise purchased and used in the United States, its possessions and territories.

"MTD" warrants this product against defects in material and workmanship for a period of two (2) years commencing on the date of original purchase and will, at its option, repair or replace, free of charge, any part found to be defective in materials or workmanship. This limited warranty shall only apply if this product has been operated and maintained in accordance with the Operator's Manual furnished with the product, and has not been subject to misuse, abuse, commercial use, neglect, accident, improper maintenance, alteration, vandalism, theft, fire, water, or damage because of other peril or natural disaster. Damage resulting from the installation or use of any part, accessory or attachment not approved by MTD for use with the product(s) covered by this manual will void your warranty as to any resulting damage.

Normal wear parts are warranted to be free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of purchase. Normal wear parts include, but are not limited to items such as: batteries, belts, blades, blade adapters, grass bags, rider deck wheels, seats, snow thrower skid shoes, shave plates, auger spiral rubber and tires.

HOW TO OBTAIN SERVICE: Warranty service is available, WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE, through your local authorized service dealer. To locate the dealer in your area, check your Yellow Pages, or contact MTD LLC at P.O. Box 361131, Cleveland, Ohio 44136-0019, or call 1-800-800-7310 or 1-330-220-4683 or log on to our Web site at www.mtdproducts.com.

This limited warranty does **not** provide coverage in the following cases:

a. The engine or component parts thereof. These items may carry a separate manufacturer's warranty. Refer to applicable manufacturer's warranty for terms and conditions.

b. Log splitter pumps, valves, and cylinders have a separate one year warranty.

c. Routine maintenance items such as lubricants, filters, blade sharpening, tune-ups, brake adjustments, clutch adjustments, deck adjustments, and normal deterioration of the exterior finish due to use or exposure.

d. Service completed by someone other than an authorized service dealer.

e. MTD does not extend any warranty for products sold or exported outside of the United States, its possessions and territories, except those sold through MTD's authorized channels of export distribution.

f. Replacement parts that are not genuine MTD parts.

g. Transportation charges and service calls.

No implied warranty, including any implied warranty of merchantability of fitness for a particular purpose, applies after the applicable period of express written warranty above as to the parts as identified. No other express warranty, whether written or oral, except as mentioned above, given by any person or entity, including a dealer or retailer, with respect to any product, shall bind MTD. During the period of the warranty, the exclusive remedy is repair or replacement of the product as set forth above.

The provisions as set forth in this warranty provide the sole and exclusive remedy arising from the sale. MTD shall not be liable for incidental or consequential loss or damage including, without limitation, expenses incurred for substitute or replacement lawn care services or for rental expenses to temporarily replace a warranted product.

Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, or limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts, so the above exclusions or limitations may not apply to you.

In no event shall recovery of any kind be greater than the amount of the purchase price of the product sold. **Alteration of safety features of the product shall void this warranty.** You assume the risk and liability for loss, damage, or injury to you and your property and/or to others and their property arising out of the misuse or inability to use the product.

This limited warranty shall not extend to anyone other than the original purchaser or to the person for whom it was purchased as a gift.

HOW STATE LAW RELATES TO THIS WARRANTY: This limited warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

IMPORTANT: Owner must present Original Proof of Purchase to obtain warranty coverage.

MTD LLC, P.O. BOX 361131 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44136-0019; Phone: 1-800-800-7310, 1-330-220-4683